



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

REGION 6
1445 ROSS AVENUE, SUITE 1200
DALLAS, TX 75202-2733

May 20, 2005

Cary Frost
Forest Plan Revision Team
Ozark-St. Francis National Forests
605 W. Main Street
Russellville, AR 72801

Dear Mr. Frost:

In accordance with our responsibilities under Section 309 of the Clean Air Act, the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), and the Council on Environmental Quality Regulations for Implementing NEPA, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 6 office in Dallas, Texas, has completed its review of the Draft Environmental Impact Statement for the proposed revised land and resource management plan Ozark-St. Francis National Forest, Arkansas. The proposal updates the management goals, objectives, standards, and monitoring requirements for the ten-year planning period. Alternative E (Balanced Age Class/Restoration Mix) is the preferred alternative.

EPA classified your DEIS and proposed action as "LO," i.e., EPA has "Lack of Objections". The DEIS is consistent with the CEQ regulations for implementing NEPA. Alternative E (Balanced Age Class/Restoration Mix) is the preferred alternative. This alternative recognizes and balances the wide diversity of interests and values in management of the Forest using a mix of vegetation management practices to management forest ecosystems. High quality development and disperse recreation opportunities occur emphasizing the Forests' role in providing outdoor recreation.

Our classification will be published in the Federal Register according to our responsibility under Section 309 of the Clean Air Act to inform the public of our views on proposed Federal actions. If you have any questions, please contact Michael Jansky of my staff at 214-665-7451 or by e-mail at jansky.michael@epa.gov for assistance.

Sincerely yours,

/s/

Rhonda M. Smith
Acting Chief, Office of Planning
and Coordination